Gundry, A P = Principal, Galt Ontario = February 1915

A. P. GUNDRY,
PRINCIPAL

COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE

Feb 17th 1915

President Falconer
University of Toronto
Toronto

Dear President Falconer.

Yesterday I saw the picture of one Chas Hoag of S. P. S. among those wearing the Kings Uniform and forming the 2nd C. O. S. Contingent. It happened that in the same paper there was a list of University men who had been granted this year because they were willing to serve their King & fellows at the front. In this list I could not find that of C. Hoag of the S. P. S. There was also a remark of the Registrar's that standing would be granted only to those who were up in their work. I do not know whether Charles Hoag is up in his work or not but I do hope that the U. of T. will be generous and will grant every man who goes to the front a clean slate—

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on the boards of the University. It will "hearten up" even the poor student to know that his life is at least as valuable as a "star" in the registrar's office.

I am intensely pessimistic only in Hoag but I do hope (and feel confident that my hope will be realized) that "Old Varsity" will not toast "merits" or "stars" to any chap with enough red blood in his veins to get into the firing line while the great majority of us fight the battles in front of a grate fire with slippers & pipe.

Yours very truly

A. P. Gundry

February 19th, 1915

Principal A. E. Gundry,

Collegiate Institute,

Galt, Ont.

My dear Principal Gundry:

The University has been as generous as possible and will continue to be so to all who have enlisted for the front or are serving in our country's cause at home, but there are limits beyond which we cannot go, particularly in the professional faculties. We have a duty to the public not to certify men for professional work who are as far as we can judge quite insufficiently prepared for that work. I am afraid that from all I can gather Mr. Hoag is one of these. Last year up till Christmas time his work was very unsatisfactory, then he disappeared for the rest of the session. He returned last autumn, but again his work was unsatisfactory up till Christmas time. You will see therefore that his case is a very difficult one for the Faculty to deal with. I am sure that a star would not stand in a man's way, or any little thing that might be by any generous interpretation passed over. As a matter of fact in the final issue such cases are dealt with not by us but by the Faculty concerned. Unfortunately we have had a few applications in which men seem to think that the patriotic duty should be counted as an equivalent for their necessary academic attainments that we are pledged to certify to the public. This puts us in a difficult position.

With kind regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,